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1961/04/22

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Appendix A

To: RUSK

From: SCHLESINGER

In connection with instructions to embassies concerning Cuba you may wish to consider following points:

1. New administration inherited plan for overthrow of Castro regime through operations involving not only anti-Castro Cubans but US Navy and Air Force.
2. New administration rejected proposed US intervention and killed original plan.
3. This decision left question whether to disband or assist anti-Castro Cubans trained to return to homeland.
4. Administration saw no obligation to protect Castro from Cuban patriots who felt he had sold out Cuban Revolution. In view moreover of supposed bad effect in Latin America of total cancellation, the administration decided, all senior officers involved concurring, that effort should be made at mass infiltration of exiles back into Cuba.
5. This was not repeat not an invasion though so played by press. Difficulties were obviously underestimated.
6. This operation in no way comparable to Hungary or Suez. If US had intervened, obviously Castro would be through. US government stuck resolutely to determination against military intervention. US role was to lend sympathy and limited support to group of liberal Cubans.
7. Remedial measures are under way to repair malfunctioning services.

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